



REMARKS

Discussion of Amendments to the Claims

This amendment maintains claims 1 through 41 as originally filed, and adds new claims 42 through 48. The fees for claims 1 through 41 will be paid along with the basic filing fee, when the Notice to File Missing Parts is received. Check No. 3013 is enclosed, in the amount of \$126, for the fees for claims 42 through 48.

The application is believed to be in a condition for allowance, and an early notice of allowance is respectfully requested. The Examiner is requested to call the undersigned for any reason that would advance the application to issuance.

DATED this 7th day of January, 2004.

Respectfully submitted,

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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.8

I hereby certify that this Preliminary Amendment is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail, postage prepaid, in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P. O. Box 1450, Alexandria VA 22313-1450, on this 7th day of January, 2004.

Gerald W. Spinks
Attorney for Applicant
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